

## Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 SSO-00  
INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 MC-02 IGA-02 /067 W  
-----242014Z 026656 /47

O R 241935Z JAN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2978  
INFO SECDEF WASHDC  
USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS CZ  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY LIMA  
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
HQUSAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 0521

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MILI, MASS, EC, US  
SUBJECT: SALE OF ISRAELI JETS TO ECUADOR

REF: A) 24 COMPW HOWARD AFB MSG 122138Z JAN 77 (NOTAL)  
B) HQUSAF MSG 172145Z DEC 76 (NOTAL)  
C) USMLO QUITO MSG 282134Z OCT 76 (NOTAL)

1. DAILIES EL COMERCIO, EL TELEGRAFO AND EL UNIVERSO ON  
JAN. 24 ALL HEADLINED A SHORT AFP ARTICLE QUOTING NEWSWEEK  
MAGAZINE TO THE EFFECT THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAS FORMALLY OPPOSED  
THE SALE OF 24 ISRAELI KFIR INTERCEPTORS TO ECUADOR. EMBASSY  
HAS ALREADY BEGUN TO RECEIVE INQUIRIES FROM GOE AS TO TRUTH  
OF THIS STATEMENT. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ASAP, GUIDANCE FROM  
THE DEPARTMENT FOR RESPONDING TO THE INQUIRIES.

2. THE EMBASSY SEES NO GAIN FOR US INTERESTS IN ECUADOR BY  
BLOCKING THE SALE OF THE KFIR. ON THE CONTRARY, THE GOE  
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WILL REACT NEGATIVELY, AND SEE THIS AS UNTOWARD INTER-  
FERENCE IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO DEFEND AGAINST THE THREAT  
IT PERCEIVES FROM SOVIET-BUILT PERUVIAN SU-22S. NORTHROP'S  
F-5 AND THE KFIR HAD BEEN COMPETING HOTLY FOR THE CONTRACT,  
AND THE KFIR APPEARS TO HAVE WON OUT. BUT ALTHOUGH THE  
ECUADOREAN AIR FORCE (FAE) IN THE ABSENCE OF THE KFIR  
PROBABLY WOULD LEAN TOWARD THE F-5 ON TECHNICAL GROUNDS,

LEAD TIMES AND FINANCING PROBLEMS, COUPLED WITH PIQUE OVER  
OUR VETO OF THE KFIR SALE, MIGHT WELL PERSUADE THEM TO  
OPT FOR THE MIRAGE F-1 OR SOME OTHER AIRCRAFT. MOREOVER,  
THE RESENTMENT WHICH WOULD BE GENERATED BY A US VETO OF  
THE KFIR SALE WOULD SPILL OVER INTO OUR OTHER INTERESTS  
AND NEGATE SOME OF THE SUCCESS WE HAVE HAD IN RECENT  
MONTHS IN USING OUR GROWING INFLUENCE WITH THE MILITARY TO  
RESOLVE BILATERAL PROBLEMS.  
BLOOMFIELD

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 24-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977QUITO00521  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SALE OF ISRAELI JETS TO ECUADOR  
**TAGS:** MILI, MASS, EC, US, IS  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009